SHORT-HAND.

A Brief and Interesting History of the Invention and its Progress Among the Nations.

Did the Phonetic Principle Originate in America or England?-The Senate Reporter's Salary.

Harper's Weekly.

The International Short-hand Congress, which met September 26, for a week's session in London, England, will be remembered by short-hand writers all over the world for many years to come At this congress there were discussions on various phases of the art by representatives from America, Germany, France, Holland and Russia; the issue of Dr. Timomy Bright's Characterie, one of the earliest English manuals of short-band, was comm-morated, and the proceedings included a jubilee celebration of the in vention of phonography, this year making the fiftieth anniversary of that important event.

To Isaac Pitman of Bath, England, must be given the credit of producing the most popular system of short-hand that has ever been used, and upon the general principles of which all future systems of writing by signs will be based. Mr. Pitman is now nearly seventy-five years of age. As a lad he received a commonschool education, was clerk in his father's cloth-mill, and when seventeen years of age mastered one of the old systems of stenography (l'sylor's), with which he reported slow speakers. Sub sequently he prepared a man ual of short-hand founded on this system, and later issued a book called "Stenographic Sound-hand," or signwriting by sound This was published in 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's coronation, Mr Pitman being twenty-four years of age. Since then Mr. Pitman, who for many years has been his own publisher, has issued mary books on phonography, all of which nave had a large sale: of one of them, The Teacher, more than a million copies have ben sold. Mr. Pitman in his old age is a hard worker. For nearly a quarter of a century he has been a strict vegetarian, eating neither fish, fish nor fowl, and abstaining from wine, beer and liquors.

Although Isaac Pitman has always been credited with the invention of phonography, a recent discovery seems to show that an American introduced the phonetic principle some years before Mr. Pitman Vermont, written many years before by the Rev. Phinehas Bailey, and in which certain rule for writing by sound are clearly laid down. Mr. Bailey was born in New Hampsh re, and settled in Vermont, when he was a youth. He studied short-hand from a pamphlet on the subject that came in his way when he was preparing for the ministry. Years after, he endeavored to improve on the cumbersome system. The phonetic principle is said to have occurred to him while he was walking home one day. His wife saw him smiling, and asked him if he had found a gold mine. He replied: "If it were not contrary to scripture, I should say that I have had a revelation frem heaven."

After working hard at his new system, Mr. Bailey published a small book on writing short-hand by sound. This was in 1819, at which time Isaac Pitman was through many editions, but the system never became generally popular, and it is only of late that attention has been called to it. It is not claimed by any one that Pitman took his phonetic idea from Bailey; both men worked on the same lines, and though Bailey's system is very ingenious, Pitman's is better adapted to

To prevent confusion in the mind of the reader some explanation of general terms applied to any system of writing by signs. "Stenography," or the old system to \$10 a column. of short-hand, was based on our common alphabet, a sign being provided for each letter, and words being written with the vowels omitted. Some of the old systems provided signs for certain sounds, but it remained for Pitman to discover "writing," riting; "though," tho, etc.

The forms or signs in the old systems were long, awkward to make, and cumbersome, but the old stenogra generations a family of stenographers have done the reporting of the English hased on a system invented by Thomas Gurney, an ancestor, who reported in Parliament a century ago. In our own Congress there have been official reporters of an old New York phonographer, the ever been seen in the United States. Mr. or special signs, and his notes, written strike terror into the ghost of an Egyptian Stenography is laughed at by many

strokes as there is in writing phonography. But phonography is scientific, and, in spite

Text books on phonography began to first ones being published by Andrews & Ledger, started a phonographic journal.

Since 1854 the number of shorthand

different systems were at fever heat.

The feeling displayed on the part of one man who inside a book toward the other man who inside a book toward the other man who refused to adopt it was very amusing, and its existence would scarcely

The feeling displayed on the part of one stuff and dig out the kernel of facts on Submitted on briefs for both parties:

Submitted on brief for appellant:

Submitt

be credited by laymen. About twenty | machine will be invented by the aid of years ago there were three systems of which speece may be taken down as fast snorthand in general use-Isaac Pitman's | as it is uttered. An Ital an, M. Michela, als brother's books published in this has invented a phono-stenographic plane, country, and the works of an American capable, it is said, of taking the place of author, who showed great scientific in the verbatim short-hand writer. A sucger uity in his improvements, albeit they cessful test of the invention was mad were hardly practicable. The followers some five years ago before the French of the latter two systems would Chamber of Deputies. Our own Edison scarcely recognize each other when has la ely invented a machine called the they met-they were as Paritan and graphophone, which is claimed to be a Roman Catholic-while Isaac Pitmanites, simple but perfect recorder and reproalways Englishmen just arrived on our ducer of speech. It has recorded speech scores, were looked upon as a species of at the rate of 275 words per minute, which short-nand suspects. But those days is much faster than the most rapid short- TYPHOID FEVER, have passed away. Short-hand writers hand writer can write. of all systems now fraternize. Their

heir profession. All of them use long condensers of notes as well. forms in writing words, or, to speak more clearly, they have adopted few, it any, of the improvements made by various authors in recent years. The reporter of the Senate receives \$25,000 a year for the job, and each of the five official reporters employed by the House of Representatives is paid \$5000 a year. In reporting the proceedings the reporters

ourts of New York about twenty-five Florida or his summer jaunt to Norway

mploy official court reporters. tions of various kinds where a consider- | heaval of the routine of living. able amount of correspondence has to be attended to promptly every day. Authors occasionally use the short-hand was considering for a future home, when writer, but he will never be popular with a friend at his elbow remarked: "But it the literary man, for most writers of gives you no guest room." "Exactly books and important magazine contribu. so," was the cynical response, "that is tions cannot "think out" their articles why I have decided to take it." The fast enough to utilize the swift handed statement may seem brutal, but it is a scribe. Besides, most writers prefer to fact patent to all, that to keep open do their work alone; the presence of a house in New York is to keep a railroad second party is apt to make them nervous hotel. The strain upon the nervous and be a hindrance rather than a help. Vitality of the host, and especially the But every writer and author, certainly hostess, would be enormous, even if it every journalist, should possess a knowl. Were their only occupation; but that it edge of elementary short-hand. The time | seldom is. Never perhaps in the history ago a book on short-hend was found in saved over the common writing would of the world has the pressure on the amount to years in a long life. In the vitality, the time and the nerves of men following words the number of move- and women been so great as it is to-day. ments required to write the word respect. How can a woman sit down to calm ively in long hand and short-hand are enjoyment of a visit, when she given, Ease, long-hand 30, short-hand 2; is haunted by the ghosts of unwritten though, long-hand 24, short-hand 2; ac. letters, unreturned calls and unread commodate, long-hand 43, short hand 2; books; not to mention such prosaic specincomprehensible, long-hand 50, short- ters as undarned stockings and uncared hand 5

plainly, is drudgery, but it is well-paid drudgery, and a competent hard-working short-hand writer earns every dollar that | he makes. The salaries of official court from a day's work at the office, waich stenographers in New York run from leaves every nerve throb with irritation \$2000 to \$3000, with extra fees for tran He is fit for nothing but dressing-sack, scribing their notes. In other states the pipe and slippers before the fire, or a restyearly earnings of short-hand court re- ful nap on the sofa. Instead, he is reporters will average \$1500. The report- quested to hurry off to me t his wife's ers of Congressional committees each re- cousin, or still worse, his own, who ar ceives \$4200 yearly. The private short- to arrive at the Grand Central station hand secretary to the President is paid a from Dakota at 7:30. Their arrival deonly six years old. This book passed salary of \$1800; Secretary Fairchild's lays the dinner hour, thereby adding instenographer, \$2500, and Secretary Endicott's, \$2000. The pay of the short-hand amanuenses runs from \$10 to \$30 a week, the higher wages being paid to exceptionally competent workers.

Twenty years ago the newspapers were tures and meetings, and short-hand reporters were in great demand for journalis- cial tic work. That is all changed now. It is so rare that full short-hand reports are is necessary. The word "short-hand" is required by the newspapers that such work is given to men specially employed for the occasion; they are paid from \$6

The mistakes made by inexperinced or short-hand writer's reminiscences. The fancy, make it so easy to entertain visitall words are written by sound, without any reference to the way they are spelled.

To illustrate: The word "they," that most ridiculous errors. To illustrate A certain lecturer quoted the Miltonic couplet: "But come, thou goddess fair and free, in heaven ycleped Euphrosyse," and had the pleasure of reading next all practical purposes. For several morning, "But came that goddess fair latter a good profit. and free, in heaven she crept and froze her knee." The Latin phrase, Amicus So-House of Parliament, using a short-hand crates, amicus Piato est, sed major veritas, was translated, "I may cuss Socrates, I may cuss Piato, said Major Veritas." An English judge who took lowing cases have been disposed of on snort-hand notes found himself unable to the criminal docket of the District court. who used the old systems, and one of read a sentence in his manuscript, and The case of the State of Texas vs. Wilthem, William Hinckes, who died eight looks like (Co and call the haby!" I liam Minter, murder, was continued; years ago, was, according to the authority looks like, 'Go and call the baby,'" he said. The sentence turned out to be, "Go most rapid short-hand writer that has and call the bobby" (policeman). Among fendant guilty of simple assault and fined other ludicrous examples of snort-hand \$5; J H Raiger, charged with assault to Hinckes wr te pure stenography—i. e., a "gross receipts;" "damu rickety knees" verdict of guitty and assess his punishseparate sign for each letter of our com-for "tamarack knees;" "counsel brought pauper in evidence" for "counsel offered on unruled paper in a large hand, would paper in evidence;" "coal porter" for "colporteur;" "she appeared to be some- P. Tutton, charged with assisting prisonwhat knee-sprung and nervous" for "she mummy; the signs looked as bad as a appeared to be somewhat unstrung and combination of Egyptian hieroglyphics nervous." For the classical expression, punishment at three yeers in the peniten-"Give me but light, and Ajax asks no phonographers, but the fact is that it is me a light; on inchasel no more," the following was given, "Give murder of Bob Hale at St. Jo on August just as practicable as the new system,

The next quarter of a century will probon a writ of habeas corpus, was refused me a light; on, jackass! no more."

ten without regard to lines and there is no distinction between light and heavy voluminous notes of testimony now taken voluminous notes of testimony now taken far to agree. In the case of McNatt & in courts will have to be "cut down" by March vs P. J. Witters & Bro the motion the stenographer, and the correctness of for a new trial has been overuled, and of some disadvantages connected with it, the stenographer, and the confectates of the defendant gave notice of an appeal. the presiding judge, or some official apappear in the United States in 1845, the pointed for that purpose. Judges have already begun to complain of the special to the Gazette. Boyle. In 1848 Oliver Dyer, now and for labor of wading through the long reports a long time editor of the New York of testimony presented to them in the Ledger, started a phonographic journal late the same year Elias Longley of Cincinnati entered the field of phonographic in this country, and in 1841 there arrived in this country a brother of Issac Pittman who soon became an active publ sher of text books, his works being in demand up to the present time.

Cases on appeal. One New York judge cases on appeal. One New York judge says: "Stenographers have taken the place of the attorneys whose duty it is to prepare, and of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare and of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare and of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare and of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare and of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare and of the counter the follows.

No mineral sequence of the counsel whose duty it is to prepare cases on appeal. One New York judge frequently unintelligible transcripts and | Writ of error dismissed: Watson vs. authors has grown enormonsly. All of translations of the stenographer's min- Watson, from Wood. the systems however have been based utes of the trial, without correction or ex planation, are stitched together and la- at cost of appellant: Texas and Pacific It is only a few years since that the jealousies between the followers of suit the fancy, and the labor is thrown Reversed and remanded: Harve different systems were at fever heat. upon the court to wade through a mass of Cummings et al., from Henderson.

The Epoch. The chief causes which threaten its ex-

tinction are three:

2. The pressure of occupation. 3. The growing expensiveness of liv-

follow one after another, each reporter The passion for travel which has detaking enough notes to make, when writen out, a column of the Congressional veloped n all countries, but most here in Short-hand has been found especially up a complicated establishment white us eful in preserving a record of legal must be sout up or left to run itself when proceedings. It was introduced in me the proprietor takes his winter trip to ears ago, and nearly all the state courts | Each year, therefore, increases the numof the principal states and territorie now ber of people who prefer to live in a hartel, or an apartment, with the week Photographers are now employed as possible servants. This at once becomes amanuenses to a very large extent in a handicap on hospitality, since the comaw offices, in stores, and by corpora- ing of a guest implies an immediate up-

looking over the plan of a flat which he for children! These duties may be put Professional short-hand work, to speak aside for one guest, but when the circle becomes unending they grow into impossibilities. The strain upon the man of the house is almost as great. He returns S) long as the expenses of living fall

well within the income, hospitality is compara ively easy, but the moment there bills, a visitor is actually dreaded. The in the habit of making full reports of lec- small family economies must either put aside and the problem allowed to be made painfully apparent when con ignorant stenographers in transcribing abiding place in New York. Then the optheir notes form an amusing part of the portunities which, as country people same short-hand sign will sometimes ors in New York, are in reality so many stand for two or more words having an unceasing calls for expenditure. The con-

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Montague District Court. Special to the Gazette. Supreme Court Decisions.

R-versed and remanded: Harvey vs.

Machine short-hand writing, however, arguments about the merits of one symbol | will only be useful in certain cases. There over another sometimes seem to be more | will always be a class of short-hand work | INDIGESTION, exciting than the question would war- requiring intelligent condensation, superrant; but they have come to admit that in vision and editing, and the short-hand rewriting short hand it is the man that porter need not fear that he will lose his makes the system, and not the system occupation. Indeed, machinery may result in taking away much of the present | Druggists Everywhere. The proceedings of Congress have been | drudgery of the profession. The reportreported filially since 1850. To gen ers of the future will have to be sometiemen who have done this work, and thing more than mere note-takers; they who do it now, are at the very head of will have to be intelligent editors and

The Decline of Hospitality.

1. The enormous increase of travel.

ing, especially in the great centers.

A young married man was retently

is any cifficulty in meeting the monthly finangrow still more complicated, or they must trasted with the aggressive abundance which riots in the streets about. How rue is the saying that New York belongs to the very rich and the very poor! For the modest income there seems to be no

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MONTAGUE, TEX, Oct. 14 .- The fol-Isaac Preston, charged with assault to murder, a verdict of the jury finding deverdict of guity and assess his punishment at two years in the penitentiary; Thomas Martin, charged with theft of cattle, verdict of the jury not guilty; S. ers to escape from the jail, jury returned tiary. L. D. Brvant, charged with the only it requires more practice to become proficient. It has certain advantages over phonography; the signs can be writ-

Tyler, The Court transacted the following business ing melancholy.

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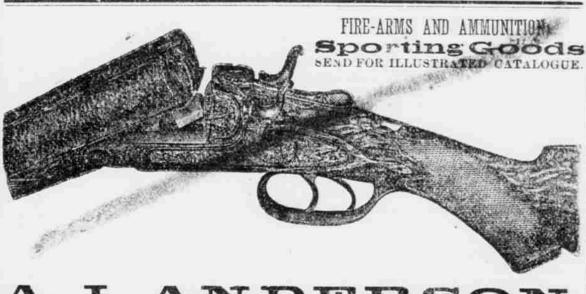
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